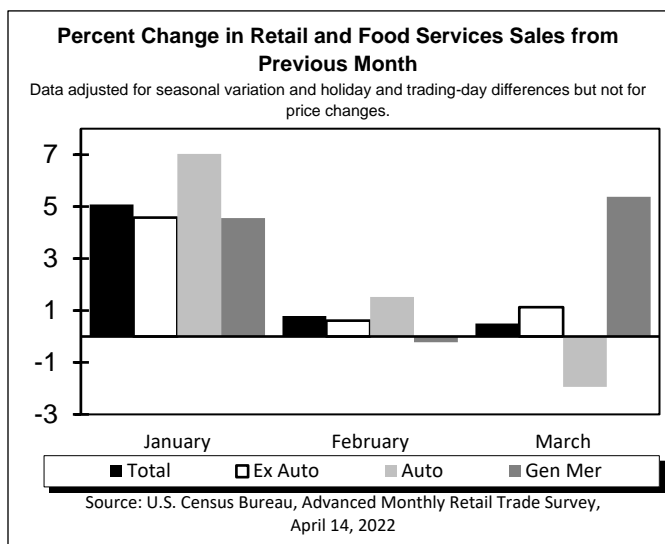## ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES, MARCH 2022

Release Number: CB22-59

Intention to Revise: Monthly retail sales estimates will be revised based on the results of the 2020 Annual Retail Trade Survey and the Service Annual Survey. Revised not adjusted estimates and corresponding adjusted estimates are scheduled for release on April 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. EDT.

April 14, 2022 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for March 2022:

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES		
March 2022	**$665.7 billion**	**0.5%***
February 2022 (revised)	**$662.4 billion**	**0.8%**
Next release: May 17, 2022		

* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.
Data adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences but not for price changes. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advanced Monthly Retail Trade Survey, April 14, 2022

Percent Change in Retail and Food Services Sales from Previous Month
Data adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences but not for price changes.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advanced Monthly Retail Trade Survey, April 14, 2022

Advance Estimates of U.S. Retail and Food Services

Advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for March 2022, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were $665.7 billion, an increase of 0.5 percent (±0.5 percent)* from the previous month, and 6.9 percent (±0.9 percent) above March 2021. Total sales for the January 2022 through March 2022 period were up 12.9 percent (±0.7 percent) from the same period a year ago. The January 2022 to February 2022 percent change was revised from up 0.3 percent (±0.5 percent)* to up 0.8 percent (±0.2 percent).

Retail trade sales were up 0.4 percent (±0.4 percent)* from February 2022, and up 5.5 percent (±0.7 percent) above last year. Gasoline stations were up 37.0 percent (±1.8 percent) from March 2021, while food services and drinking places were up 19.4 percent (±4.6 percent) from last year.

General Information

The April 2022 Advance Monthly Retail report is scheduled for release on May 17, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. EDT.

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View the full schedule in the Economic Briefing Room: <https://www.census.gov/economic-indicators/>. The full text and tables of this release can be found at <www.census.gov/retail/>.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The advance estimates are based on a subsample of the Census Bureau's full retail and food services sample. A stratified random sampling method is used to select approximately 5,500 retail and food services firms whose sales are then weighted and benchmarked to represent the complete universe of over three million retail and food services firms.

Survey Description

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Advance Monthly Retail Trade and Food Services Survey to provide an early estimate of monthly sales by kind of business for retail and food service firms located in the United States. Each month, questionnaires are mailed to a probability sample of approximately 5,500 employer firms selected from the larger Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Advance sales estimates are computed using a link relative estimator. For each detailed industry, we compute a ratio of current-to-previous month weighted sales using data from units for which we have obtained usable responses for both the current and previous month. For each detailed industry, the advance total sales estimates for the current month is computed by multiplying this ratio by the preliminary sales estimate for the previous month (derived from the larger MRTS) at the appropriate industry level. Total estimates for broader industries are computed as the sum of the detailed industry estimates. The link relative estimate is used because imputation is not performed for most nonrespondents in MARTS. For a limited number of nonresponding companies that have influential effects on the estimates, sales may be estimated based on historical performance of that company. The monthly estimates are benchmarked to the annual survey estimates from the Annual Retail Trade Survey once available. The estimates are adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading day differences. Additional information on MARTS and MRTS can be found on the Census Bureau website at: <www.census.gov/retail>.

Reliability of Estimates

Because the estimates presented in this report are based on a sample survey, they contain sampling error and nonsampling error.

Sampling error is the difference between the estimate and the result that would be obtained from a complete enumeration of the sampling frame conducted under the same survey conditions. This error occurs because only a subset of the entire sampling frame is measured in a sample survey. Standard errors and coefficients of variation (CV), as given in Table 3 of this report, are estimated measures of sampling variation.

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The margin of sampling error, as used on page 1, gives a range about the estimate which is a 90 percent confidence interval. If, for example, the percent change estimate is +1.2 percent and its estimated standard error is 0.9 percent, then the margin of sampling error is ±1.753 x 0.9 percent or ±1.6 percent, and the 90 percent confidence interval is –0.4 percent to +2.8 percent. If the interval contains 0, then one does not have sufficient evidence to conclude at the 90 percent confidence level that the change is different from zero and therefore the change is not statistically significant. Estimated changes shown in the text are statistically significant unless otherwise noted. For a monthly total, the median estimated coefficient of variation is given. The resulting confidence interval is the estimated value ±1.753 x CV x (the estimated monthly total). The Census Bureau recommends that individuals using estimates in this report incorporate this information into their analyses, as sampling error could affect the conclusions drawn from the estimates.

Nonsampling error encompasses all other factors that contribute to the total error of a sample survey estimate. This type of error can occur because of nonresponse, insufficient coverage of the universe of retail businesses, mistakes in the recording and coding of data, and other errors of collection, response, coverage, or processing. Although nonsampling error is not measured directly, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the process to minimize this type of error.

Statement Regarding COVID-19 Impact
The Census Bureau continues to monitor response and data quality and has determined that estimates in this release meet publication standards. For more information, see COVID-19 FAQs.

Weather Information
For information on the impact of weather events on the compilation of this report, please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on our website at:
<www.census.gov/retail/marts_weather_faqs.html>

RESOURCES

API
The Census Bureau's application programming interface lets developers create custom apps to reach new users and makes key demographic, socio-economic and housing statistics more accessible than ever before. <www.census.gov/developers/>

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FRED Mobile App

 Receive the latest updates on the nation's key economic indicators by downloading the FRED App <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/fred-mobile/> for both Apple and Android devices. FRED, the signature database of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, now incorporates the Census Bureau's 13 economic indicators.

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* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

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Table 1. Estimated Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business

(Total sales estimates are shown in millions of dollars and are based on data from the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, Monthly Retail Trade Survey, and administrative records.)

NAICS[1] code	Kind of Business	Not Adjusted							Adjusted[2]				
		3 Month Total		2022			2021		2022			2021	
		2022	% Chg. 2021	Mar.[3] (a)	Feb. (p)	Jan. (r)	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.[3] (a)	Feb. (p)	Jan. (r)	Mar. (r)	Feb. (r)
	Retail & food services, total	1,843,530	12.4	677,211	579,915	586,404	633,078	490,646	665,726	662,417	657,207	622,897	560,506
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1,458,445	13.3	531,716	458,295	468,434	486,171	387,850	532,011	526,050	522,878	487,581	444,885
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	1,680,082	10.5	613,297	529,943	536,842	586,718	454,351	601,876	603,764	602,260	576,304	517,956
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	1,294,997	11.0	467,802	408,323	418,872	439,811	351,555	468,161	467,397	467,931	440,988	402,335
	Retail	1,631,772	10.8	598,911	511,946	520,915	567,933	440,019	590,365	587,808	584,763	559,772	504,933
	GAFO[4]	(*)	(*)	(*)	108,859	108,214	126,263	95,043	(*)	128,839	128,130	129,332	112,135
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	385,085	8.8	145,495	121,620	117,970	146,907	102,796	133,715	136,367	134,329	135,316	115,621
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	356,342	8.5	134,747	112,708	108,887	136,709	95,277	123,735	126,354	124,158	125,767	107,173
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	88,940	87,157	107,329	77,194	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.............	(*)	(*)	(*)	8,912	9,083	10,198	7,519	(*)	10,013	10,171	9,549	8,448
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	35,090	5.5	13,080	11,141	10,869	12,551	10,003	12,861	12,776	12,436	12,414	11,471
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,166	5,715	7,128	5,675	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	20,393	-4.0	7,211	6,374	6,808	7,980	6,203	7,527	7,285	7,266	8,339	7,089
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers....................................	112,318	7.6	44,319	33,875	34,124	43,520	29,605	43,602	43,387	43,002	43,336	37,964
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	29,728	30,043	37,395	25,637	(*)	38,015	37,790	37,659	32,784
445	Food & beverage stores.........................	226,393	7.7	78,369	71,206	76,818	72,656	65,819	79,069	78,263	78,515	72,966	72,356
4451	Grocery stores	204,525	8.5	70,588	64,113	69,824	64,734	59,018	70,729	69,840	70,245	64,605	64,290
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,120	5,004	5,727	4,968	(*)	6,088	5,929	6,112	5,907
446	Health & personal care stores	95,774	6.2	33,465	30,203	32,106	33,172	27,494	32,522	32,617	32,828	32,081	29,659
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	25,603	27,670	27,972	23,466	(*)	27,064	27,781	27,105	24,805
447	Gasoline stations	163,448	36.4	63,914	49,972	49,562	46,360	36,295	63,850	58,653	54,947	46,593	42,550
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	65,935	16.7	25,982	21,224	18,729	24,171	16,568	26,936	26,247	26,085	25,098	20,475
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	569	362	(*)	(S)	(S)	549	453
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,731	2,453	3,159	2,069	(*)	3,453	3,398	3,046	2,619
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	7,291	6,953	9,424	5,919	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,597	2,181	3,678	2,163	(*)	3,190	3,231	3,486	2,612
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	23,781	1.6	9,014	7,294	7,473	9,554	6,424	9,429	9,129	8,823	9,931	8,030
452	General merchandise stores..................	196,129	6.8	72,633	60,964	62,532	69,886	54,183	74,863	71,039	71,197	71,148	62,995
4521	Department stores	30,051	11.2	11,184	9,660	9,207	10,825	7,881	12,141	12,176	11,974	11,309	9,900
4529	Other general merch. stores....	(*)	(*)	(*)	51,304	53,325	59,061	46,302	(*)	58,863	59,223	59,839	53,095
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters..................................	(*)	(*)	(*)	44,469	46,607	50,973	39,956	(*)	50,822	51,216	51,644	45,664
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.............	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,835	6,718	8,088	6,346	(*)	8,041	8,007	8,195	7,431
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	41,975	18.9	15,544	13,201	13,230	13,605	10,515	15,641	15,510	15,313	13,801	12,334
454	Nonstore retailers	265,451	10.4	89,885	84,872	90,694	87,571	74,114	90,350	96,535	100,022	88,749	84,389
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	74,216	79,755	77,955	65,004	(*)	86,802	90,323	80,201	75,939
722	Food services & drinking places	211,758	25.7	78,300	67,969	65,489	65,145	50,627	75,361	74,609	72,444	63,125	55,573

(*) Advance estimates are not available for this kind of business.   (NA) Not available   (a) Advance estimate   (p) Preliminary estimate   (r) Revised estimate

(S) Estimate does not meet publication standards because of high sampling variability (coefficient of variation is greater than 30%), poor response quality (total quantity response rate is less than 50%), or other concerns about the estimate's quality.

(1) For a full description of the NAICS codes used in this table, see <https://www.census.gov/naics/>.

(2) Estimates are concurrently adjusted for seasonal variation and for holiday and trading day differences, but not for price changes. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available unadjusted estimates as input to the X-13ARIMA-SEATS program. The factors derived from the program are used in calculating all seasonally adjusted estimates shown in this table. Year-to-date seasonally adjusted sales estimates are not tabulated. Adjustment factors and explanatory material can be found on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/retail>.

(3) Advance estimates are based on early reports obtained from a small sample of firms selected from the larger Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS) sample. All other estimates are from the MRTS sample.

(4) GAFO represents firms which specialize in department store types of merchandise and is comprised of furniture & home furnishings (442), electronics & appliances (443), clothing & accessories (448), sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, and book (451), general merchandise (452), office supply, stationery, and gift stores (4532).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, April 14, 2022. Table 3 provides estimated measures of sampling variability. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at <www.census.gov/retail/how_surveys_are_collected.html>.

Table 2. Estimated Change in Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business

(Estimates are shown as percents and are based on data from the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, Monthly Retail Trade Survey, and administrative records.)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Percent Change[1]					
		Mar. 2022 Advance from --		Feb. 2022 Preliminary from --		Jan. 2022 through Mar. 2022 from --	
		Feb. 2022 (p)	Mar. 2021 (r)	Jan. 2022 (r)	Feb. 2021 (r)	Oct. 2021 through Dec. 2021	Jan. 2021 through Mar. 2021
	Retail & food services, total	0.5	6.9	0.8	18.2	4.2	12.9
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	1.1	9.1	0.6	18.2	3.5	13.8
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	-0.3	4.4	0.2	16.6	3.8	11.0
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	0.2	6.2	-0.1	16.2	3.0	11.4
	Retail	0.4	5.5	0.5	16.4	4.5	11.3
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	-1.9	-1.2	1.5	17.9	6.6	9.4
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ...	-2.1	-1.6	1.8	17.9	6.9	9.1
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	0.7	3.6	2.7	11.4	4.3	5.8
443	Electronics & appliance stores	3.3	-9.7	0.3	2.8	-4.4	-3.8
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers...........................	0.5	0.6	0.9	14.3	4.5	7.5
445	Food & beverage stores..........................	1.0	8.4	-0.3	8.2	1.2	8.2
4451	Grocery stores	1.3	9.5	-0.6	8.6	1.2	8.9
446	Health & personal care stores	-0.3	1.4	-0.6	10.0	0.7	6.6
447	Gasoline stations	8.9	37.0	6.7	37.8	8.0	36.7
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	2.6	7.3	0.6	28.2	0.1	18.1
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	3.3	-5.1	3.5	13.7	-1.6	3.2
452	General merchandise stores....................	5.4	5.2	-0.2	12.8	3.1	8.0
4521	Department stores	-0.3	7.4	1.7	23.0	3.4	13.7
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	0.8	13.3	1.3	25.7	3.7	19.3
454	Nonstore retailers	-6.4	1.8	-3.5	14.4	7.3	10.3
722	Food services & drinking places	1.0	19.4	3.0	34.3	1.7	26.6

(p) Preliminary estimate   (r) Revised estimate

(1) Estimates shown in this table are derived from adjusted estimates provided in Table 1 of this report.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, April 14, 2022. Table 3 provides estimated measures of sampling variability.
    Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at
    <www.census.gov/retail/how_surveys_are_collected.html>.

Table 3. Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability and Revision to Advance Estimates Mar. 2022

(Estimates are shown as percents and are based on data from the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey and Monthly Retail Trade Survey)

NAICS Code	Kind of Business	Median CV [1] for Current Mo. (%)	Median standard error [1] for Percent change			Revision for month-to-month change [2]	
			Previous Mo. to Current Mo.	Previous Qtr. to Current Qtr.	Current Mo. to same Mo. Last Yr.	Average revision	Median absolute revision
	Retail & food services, total	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.4
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.4
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.3
	Retail, total	**0.7**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.4**	**0.1**	**0.5**
441	**Motor vehicle & parts dealers**	**1.4**	**0.8**	**0.4**	**1.2**	**0.1**	**0.6**
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	1.5	0.9	0.4	1.3	0.2	0.8
442	**Furniture & home furn. stores................**	**2.9**	**1.0**	**0.7**	**1.6**	**0.4**	**1.4**
443	**Electronics & appliance stores ....**	**1.8**	**0.6**	**0.5**	**1.0**	**-0.8**	**1.2**
444	**Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers......................................**	**2.4**	**0.6**	**0.6**	**1.2**	**-0.1**	**0.3**
445	**Food & beverage stores...........................**	**0.6**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.6**	**0.0**	**0.2**
4451	Grocery stores	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.3
446	**Health & personal care stores ....**	**3.7**	**0.7**	**0.4**	**1.8**	**0.2**	**0.9**
447	**Gasoline stations ....**	**1.1**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**1.0**	**0.5**	**0.5**
448	**Clothing & clothing accessories stores ....**	**2.1**	**0.8**	**0.7**	**2.0**	**0.6**	**0.7**
451	**Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores ....**	**2.7**	**0.7**	**0.9**	**1.5**	**0.2**	**0.8**
452	**General merchandise stores....................**	**1.1**	**0.1**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.3**	**0.2**
4521	Department stores	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
453	**Miscellaneous store retailers ....**	**4.8**	**2.6**	**1.6**	**4.8**	**0.0**	**1.0**
454	**Nonstore retailers ....**	**1.5**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.8**	**-0.2**	**1.4**
722	**Food services & drinking places ....**	**3.8**	**1.1**	**0.8**	**2.6**	**0.4**	**0.3**

(1) Estimated measures of sampling variability are based on estimates not adjusted for seasonal variation or holiday or trading day variation. Medians are based on estimates for the most recent 12 months.

(2) These columns provide measures of the difference between the advance-to-preliminary and preliminary-to-final estimates of month-to-month change for the same pair of months as measured by the Advance sample and MRTS sample. The average and median revisions are based on estimates for the most recent 12 months.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, April 14, 2022. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at <www.census.gov/retail/how_surveys_are_collected.html>.